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THE WATERVILLE VALLEY

A HISTORY, DESCRIPTION AND GUIDE

BY
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When, all at once, behold!
Beneath our feet, a little lowly vale,
A lowly vale, and yet uplifted high
Among the mountains; even as if the spot
Had been from eldest time by wish of theirs
So placed, to be shut out from all the world!

The Excursion.—WORDSWORTH.

CONTENTS

Part I. Descriptive and Historical 9
Part II. The Guide 29
1. Mountains 29
2. Other Objects 39
3. Walks and Trips 57
4. Altitudes 58

NOTE

The author desires to ask indulgence for any errors that may be detected. Great care has been taken and much time spent in an endeavor to reach an accurate record and to make a correct map, but it can hardly be expected that mistakes have not crept in. The writer also wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to all who have so kindly furnished him with information and assistance; and in particular to Miss Mary E. Briggs, of affectionate memory, from whom much of the historical data was obtained, and to Mr. N. L. Goodrich, the writer's son. Of the illustrations, the view from Noon Peak was taken by Mr. E. H. Lorenz; the others are from the author's photos.

Auburndale, Mass., April, 1916.

PART I

Descriptive and Historical

The Waterville Valley is a name given to the upper portion of the valley of the Mad River and lies almost entirely in the town of Waterville, N. H.

It may be reached by leaving the main line of the Boston and Maine Railroad at Plymouth, N. H., and taking the branch road up the Pemigewasset valley as far as Campton. The visitor here turns away from the Pemigewasset to the northeast and follows the carriage road into the broad mouth of the Mad River valley. As he advances, the valley closes in, the hills grow higher, the road enters the forest, and continues its upward course close along the banks of the swift, brawling stream whose character has given it the name it bears. About nine miles from the point where he left the train our traveller begins to see signs of a change in the mountain wall on his left. As he catches glimpses through the forest along the stream, or from occasional clearings, he feels that he is approaching a wider, more open valley trending north. He is now on the southern border of the Waterville valley. The high summits on his right have retired some distance only to rise to

greater heights in the dome-like double crest of Sandwich Mountain and then to sweep round by the east in a series of lower crests and masses barring farther advance in the direction in which he has come and finally running off to the north in the high ridge of which Snow's Mountain makes the crown. The high mountain wall on his left has turned sharply to the north and runs off in a smooth, splendid, heavily wooded slope till it culminates in the bare brow of Mt. Tecumseh. Between these two ridges, that of Snow's Mountain on the east and that of Tecumseh on the west, with a distance of something over three miles from crest to crest, lies the trough-like lower portion of the Waterville valley. At its northern end, four or five miles away, apparently closing the gap completely, rises the huge mass of Mt. Osceola. The road we have followed crosses Snow's brook, comes fairly out into the clearing, runs up to Elliott's Hotel, and divides, one fork making a loop in front of the Hotel, the other running past the barn to lose itself in a maze of logging roads. There is no other road in or out. A short distance above the hotel the valley turns rather sharply to the east and immediately divides. The wider part bears to the southeast and runs off to lose itself against the steep westerly flanks of the Tripyramids. The narrower part turns back a little to the north for a mile or more and then, swinging sharply to the left, runs into a fine moun-

View of Valley from Noon Peak

tain pass, known as the Mad River Notch, which lies between Mts. Osceola and Kancamagus.

The whole valley then is really a bowl-like depression with a diameter of about six miles, around the rim of which, going from north round by east, stand the following mountains:—Mt. Osceola with its two peaks, Kancamagus with its five rounded and crowded summits, the four peaks of the Tripyramids, the confused mass of doubtful name and still more doubtful topography in the triangular space between the South Tripyramid, Whiteface and Sandwich Mt., Sandwich Mt. itself with its outlying spurs, and finally Mt. Tecumseh closing the circuit. But the symmetry of this bowl is broken by two projections thrust from the surrounding wall toward the centre. From the southeast comes forward fully to the centre of the bowl the large ridge of which Snow's Mt. forms the crest; while from the low fourth, or northwestern, peak of the Tripyramids runs a long ridge ending in "The Scaur" between Slide brook and Flume brook.

This valley was first entered by settlers about 1820. It was then included in the Gillis & Foss Grant. Among the settlers of early date were Josiah Gillis, Jr., Moses Foss, Noah Danforth, Benj. Ellis, Frank C. W. Blanchard, William Snow, Nathaniel Greeley, Asa Bryant and Wm. Baird. It was incorporated as the town of Waterville July 1, 1829 and by the next year ten acres

of land in the vicinity of the "Spruces" had been cleared by Wm. Baird from Dunbarton, N. H. By 1831 seventeen poll taxes were assessed and twenty acres of improved land taxed, but the cold rocky soil of this high, northern valley offered few inducements for farming and by 1833 eleven of the seventeen men, two of the three horses and four of the fourteen cows had disappeared.

Mr. Arnold Drake, Sr. (who came in 1838), and Mr. Snow, bought their farms of Nathaniel Greeley. The Drake family has disappeared from the valley; their farm is now owned by Mrs. Elliott. The best location was doubtless that of Wm. Snow who lived to an advanced age near the foot of the mountain which bears his name. His house was standing on its old site down to a recent date but has now been removed. It stood on the northern side of Snow's brook, about eight rods from the highway, at the point where the road makes its abrupt turn.

The early saw mills, though numerous, were short of life. In 1828(9) Wm. Baird built a mill at the "old dam" below the present site of Drake's Mill. Elisha Packard built his mill in 1850 on Snow's brook, 75 or 100 rods below the highway. Danforth Cook built another in 1855 at the point now called "The Steps," and Mr. Drake built his in 1861. Mr. Drake's mill was burned in 1895, the present mill replacing it the same year. Cook's Mill (the "old mill" of the early visitors) was on

the west side of Mad River. It was reached by a high bridge which crossed the stream just below the dam. Mr. Cook's house stood about half way between Moody Elliott's house (now Osceola Cottage) and the bridge.

The road to Swaseytown and Beckytown followed the present Swaseytown path to the Cascades very closely, crossing Cascade brook a short distance below the point where the present footpath crosses.

Eben Swasey and family lived in Swaseytown from 1842 to 1849; and Beckytown was inhabited by Frank C. W. Blanchard and Rebekah, his wife, between the same dates. Both places have long since been abandoned to the forest which has nearly reclaimed them, and Beckytown in particular has been buried many feet beneath the debris of the great slides from Tripyramid.

The old bridle-path to the Saco valley by the way of Greeley Ponds (now lost), was made in 1860; the old Flat Mt. path to Sandwich by way of Snow's brook (now lost), was made in 1860; the North Woodstock path, in 1877; the Livermore trail, in 1879; the Woodbury trail to Whiteface, in 1902; the Air Line, in 1907; the new Flat Mt. Ponds trail in 1906.

The Waterville of to-day owes its character, if not its existence, to Nathaniel Greeley and Nancy, his wife, who came from Salisbury, N. H., among the earliest settlers.

Nathaniel and Joseph Greeley were born and reared in Salisbury, N. H., and their father at an early day purchased several hundred acres of land in Waterville and donated it to the two brothers.

They entered the valley in the spring of 1831 and found that the larger part and perhaps all of the purchase was on the high lands on the east side of the valley. Joseph, after remaining a few weeks, thinking he could do better elsewhere, went to New York where he remained to the time of his death. Of his share of the land Nathaniel afterward became the owner.

At this time, and for a number of years after, there was no wagon road for several miles from the settlement, probably five or six, and all freight necessary for the little colony had to be transported on horse-back or by manual labor.

The level lands of the valley had been owned and occupied before the arrival of the Greeleys by two families, one of whom, named Toby, built the old barn which stood just south of the "Spruces." Two or three rods south of this is a slight elevation on which a dilapidated log house stood in 1859; and about a dozen rods east of said barn a small frame building was then standing once owned and occupied by a family named Bryant, in which Mrs. Arnold Drake, Sr., was a child. They claimed to be (perhaps distant!) relations of Wm. Cullen Bryant.

For the want of a better place, Mr. Greeley

built his small house about three rods below the northwest corner of the orchard; the cellar is still to be seen partly filled with earth and bushes. He then cut and burned the trees on 100 acres on the mountain side principally, if not entirely, with his own hands; and his wife has told us more than once how, after the fire had swept over the mass of fallen trees, she used to shut her two little boys in the cabin while she, day after day, gathered and burned such half consumed pieces as she was able to handle.

At such expense of care and toil did the elder Greeleys build their small house, and plant their orchard, on a sunny slope at the edge of the forest, so situated that Noon Peak was exactly south. They were thus in a measure prepared for that which, rather than farming or logging, was to be the productive industry of the place. The first summer boarder came to their home in 1833 and was so well suited that he returned with his wife the following year. He was Ephraim W. Bull of Concord, Mass., known as the producer of the Concord Grape.

After living in the original house for sixteen years, they built the little "red cottage," wood-shed and barn which stood at the western end of the hotel until the present dining-room was added. By this time Mr. Greeley had acquired nearly all the valley land and had turned his attention to raising neat stock, while in the winter he materially increased his income by an active lumbering business.

In 1859 a hotel 100 x 40 ft., three stories high, with a wing of two-thirds the capacity of the main building was begun. It was located near the site of the old bowling alley. It was finished for the next season and a grand opening held July 4, 1860, at which time there were said to be not less than 1000 people present, forming a procession nearly two miles long.

The house was well filled and the first season gave promise of a successful future, but on the morning of June 10, 1861, the cook of the previous year, who with his little family lived in the rear wing, was awakened by the flames and found that nearly the entire attic of the main building was ablaze. The house with almost all its contents was soon reduced to ashes, leaving as its only modern vestige a cellar now grown up to trees.

After the burning of the hotel some of the guests took rooms at the "red cottage" and for several years this little building was filled with boarders in spite of close quarters and unpleasant barnyard surroundings.

"At this time," writes Mr. A. S. Osborne describing his visit in 1862, "Greeley, the elder, was proprietor of the valley and everything in it. He was then about sixty-five years old and appeared to have an iron constitution, although his spare form was somewhat bent and gnarled. His features were full of odd lines and produced an

effect of good natured grotesqueness that was quite taking. He was very bright and quick at retort and had an immense amount of executive energy that he carried into everything."

The first addition to the "red cottage" was begun in 1865 and finished ready for the earliest arrivals of 1866, with a capacity for about sixty guests. The property passed subsequently into the hands of Mr. Merrill Greeley, son of Nathaniel, and was by him sold to Mr. Elliott in the fall of 1883. Mr. Elliott enlarged and improved it greatly, and his wife, who undertook the management after his death, has made even more extensive alterations. The present parlor was added in 1886, the dining room and ell in 1895, the new barn in 1891, the power house and reservoir in 1901, Tecumseh Lodge, across the road to the west of the hotel, in 1901, and the new bowling alley in 1904.

The valley came into repute as a fishing ground long before summer boarders appeared in any numbers. One of the earliest traditions of the place involves a certain Elisha Horton of Canton, Mass., who came every summer to the valley and spent his days in angling. He always wandered away alone and brought back trout of the largest size, but would never reveal to others the whereabouts of his fishing grounds.

Among the earliest boarders, so far as we can ascertain, whose names are still remembered, who still come at least occasionally, or whose immediate relatives come, were:—

Mr. E. J. Connable, and wife, Jackson, Mich., 1859.

Mr. N. S. Bachelder, Concord, N. H., 1862.

Prof. George Osborne, Boston, Mass., 1862.

Mr. A. S. Osborne, Boston, Mass., 1862.

Mrs. M. E. Goodrich, Auburndale, Mass., 1864.

Hon. Eben F. Stone, and wife, Newburyport, Mass., 1864.

Mr. R. P. Shaw, Cambridge, Mass., 1864.

Mr. Theo. M. Osborne, Salem, Mass., 1865.

Mrs. H. S. Osborne, Salem, Mass., 1867.

Miss H. F. Osborne, Salem, Mass., 1867.

Mr. T. M. Stimpson, Peabody, Mass., 1868.

Rev. E. E. Hale, Boston, Mass., 1868.

Miss Gertrude A. Balch, Newburyport, Mass., 1868.

Miss Mary C. Johnson, Newburyport, Mass., 1868.

Mrs. S. B. Tobey, and daughter, Providence, R. I., 1868.

Mr. Arthur Fletcher, and wife, Concord, N. H., 1870.

Miss A. M. Fletcher, Concord, N. H., 1870.

Mrs. Mary G. Bachelder, Salem, Mass., 1870.

Miss Mary B. Briggs, Dedham, Mass., 1871.

Mr. F. C. Briggs, Hampton, Va., 1871.

Judge J. W. Bacon, and wife, Natick, Mass., 1872.

There are at present (1916) eleven cottages in the valley. Mr. E. J. Connable built his, now

From Mrs. Elliott's Cottage

owned by Rev. C. H. Patton, in 1863; Rev. J. M. Buckley built his, now owned by A. L. Goodrich, in 1877; Messrs. J. W. Davis and F. C. Briggs, theirs, now owned by Prof. M. B. Crawford and Mrs. J. E. Leaycraft, in 1880; Rev. F. N. Peloubet, his in 1883; The Spruces, originally built by Mrs. Mary Taylor in 1860, was remodelled in 1884 and later moved across the road to become The Annex; Mr. C. H. Pond built his cottage, now owned by Mrs. S. L. Woods, in 1886; the Osceola cottage was built in 1887 on the frame of a cottage originally built by Mr. Moody Elliott. Prof. G. F. Swain built his cottage, now owned by Miss Laura Wheeler, in 1896, and Mr. H. S. Stearns, his in 1900. Mrs. Elliott's cottage was built in 1911, and Mr. C. W. Whittlesey built his in 1910.

Thus the visitor of to-day, if he ascends the little slope to the east of the hotel and looks about him with his face to the west finds himself on the eastern side and near the northern end of a small clearing in the middle of a valley five or six miles long by two or three wide, closed at its southern end by the huge mass of Sandwich Mt., and at the north by the still finer peaks of Mt. Osceola, and flanked on the east and west by the summits and ridges of Snow's Mt. and Mt. Tecumseh. Below him lies the hotel; to right and left, on the low ridge where he is, stand six fine cottages; in the valley below him are six more; while down the road is the inevitable school-house, now, in default

of children, become the Town House for the few legal voters. There is barely cleared land enough for the golf links. All else is wood and stream and mountain air.

As to the reasons that might induce a visit, or the pleasures one might expect, they are manifold. In the first place it is retired. It is eleven miles down a narrow valley to the nearest railroad, and there is no other possible approach except through woods and over the mountains. One feels that he has got into a place different from the usual resorts. Distant views are not to be had, of course, except from the mountain tops, but it does not seem shut in; it is too large, the summits are too far apart, for that. There is plenty of sunlight, of air, of woods, of streams and mountains; and the world with its cares and troubles is shut out. Then again it is not fashionable. The class of people who take their summer outing by shifting from a city to a country drawing room do not go to Waterville. Rest, recreation, and nature are its chief attractions. As to its natural attractions, just run your eye over the map noticing the dotted lines with the multitude of names attached. Those lines represent paths. There are over thirty miles of them in the valley, all well kept.

Those who like severer work can find it in abundance by abandoning the paths and taking to the woods in almost any direction. There is plenty of splendid climbing on the slopes of

Tecumseh, Sandwich, Osceola, or the Tripyramids from whose northern and southern flanks came the great slides of 1869 and 1885. As to the fishing, it is not what it used to be, but count the brooks. Finally, the valley is so placed that it is admirably adapted for use as a starting-point for long trips into all that little-visited region which lies between the Saco on the east and the Profile Notch on the west, and reaches from the Waterville and Albany valleys on the south to the Twin Mountains on the north—the heart of the mountain region.

NOTE

The part that follows is merely a guide. Those who use it are warned that the distances given are approximate only and do not represent, in muscular effort, the same number of miles on a level road. It will be well also to keep in mind what the right bank of a stream is. The heights of the mountains are taken mainly from the lists of the A. M. C. and the U. S. Coast Survey. The bearings giving are magnetic.

In regard to the mountains, trails, etc., outside the limits of this book, and to the harder or less known trips within the Valley, detailed information may be found in the trampers' record book kept in the Osceola library.

The strong, comfortable seats, conveniently located about the valley, were all designed and made by Mr. W. A. Lorenz, of Hartford, Conn. The pavilion on Bull Hill was built by Mrs. M. E. Mathewson of New Haven, Conn., in 1911.

Mt. Osceola from the Golf Links

PART II. THE GUIDE

1. Mountains

Acteon Range. Ridge running S. W. from Jennings Peak.

Bald Knob. A low rocky summit standing opposite Welch Mt., at the entrance to the Valley. No path. It is the terminal peak of the Acteon range.

Flat Mountain. 2800 ft. The low mass between Sandwich Mt. and Snow's Mountain. Fletcher's Cascade is on its flank.

Flume Peak. 2900 ft. Between forks of Flume Brook.

Jennings Peak. 3500 ft. A spur of Sandwich Mt.

Kancamagus. 3724 ft. Makes the eastern wall of Mad River Notch.

Noon Peak. 2900 ft. A spur of Sandwich Mt.

Osceola. N. 13°W. from Hotel. 4352 ft.

Hotel to Osceola Bridge, *4-5 M., (First Crossing of West Branch); to first camp, 1; to first Lookout, 1 1-2; to second camp, 1 2-3; to lower spring, 2 1-4; to second Lookout, 3 1-2; to upper spring, 3 3-4; to summit, 4 3-16.

*Fractions indicated thus, for convenience of printing.

†1. Old Path.

Go north from the Hotel to the Steps. Cross Mad River here, turn to the right and take the path which very quickly leads away to the left. Follow this to the logging road (See 2.), cross the road and continue on to Osceola Bridge. West Branch is then crossed and the path soon divides. The left hand path leads to Tecumseh; keep to the right. At the first camp the path crosses the West Branch logging road and continues through the woods by the first Lookout rejoining the logging road just below the second camp. Leave the road at the camp, pass between the buildings and climb the sharp pitch. After this the way is plain. Its steepest part is between the lower spring and the second Lookout. The lower spring is just off the path on the right about 1 M. beyond the second camp. It is unfailing. The upper spring is close to the path on the left about 1-3 M. from the summit. It is small but never fails except in very dry weather. The second Lookout gives view to south over the whole valley. A few rods W. of the summit is a substantial open camp, comfortably accommodating 10 persons. Blankets are kept there during the summer. The Ravine Path, a rough trail mainly used for returning, leaves the summit at the N. end of the cliff, follows the ridge toward the East Peak to the moun-

†Lumbering has destroyed Osceola Bridge (1916). Till it is replaced follow 2. below.

tain meadow at its lowest point, thence strikes down to Osceola Brook, follows it and presently takes to a logging road which emerges on the main path at the first camp.

2. By the Logging Road.

Go as directed in 1. to the first logging road. The West Branch logging road enters the main road at the point thus reached. Follow the West Branch road to the second camp and then proceed as per 1. The Tecumseh path is crossed just beyond Tecumseh brook, and the Old Path (See 1.) at the first camp. The logging road is very rocky between the two camps.

A roughly cleared surveyor's trail runs over the ridge to the East Peak, 4204 ft., which offers little view. From here by one of the slides descent may be made to Greeley Ponds. The slides on the East Peak of Osceola are long and steep, but narrow. The new slide fell in 1897 and half filled the lower Greeley Pond. The old slide stripped the next ravine to the north. It is slightly shorter. The Split Cliff is a ledge on the N. side of Osceola. It is N. E. of the summit. Follow the Ravine path about 1-16 M. Path turns to left and descends sharply for about 3-16 M.

Passaconway. 4116 ft. East and south of S. Tripyramid. See Whiteface.

Sachem Peak. A sharp summit S. W. of Jennings Peak, in the Acteon range. No path.

Sandwich Mt. S. 8° W. from Hotel. 3999 ft.

Hotel, by road, to beginning of path, 1 4-5 M.; to Noon Peak, 3 1-4; to spring, 4; to Jennings Peak, 4 1-4; to summit, 5 1-4.

The path is steep as far as Noon Peak; after that, quite easy. There is a spring about two-thirds way between Noon and Jennings Peaks, and one which may be reached by a side path 1-4 of a mile long, leaving the main path about 1-2 mile from the top. Neither of these peaks is on the main path but each can be reached by a short side path.

The trail from Sandwich (about 8 M.) comes up on the S. E. side of the mountain. There is a camp a short distance below the summit on this trail and a spring just beyond it. Some distance below the spring the trail forks. Path to left comes out at Great Falls; path to right comes out on Bennet St. In 1902 a trail called "Algonquin", was made running from the height of land on the Sandwich Notch road, over the S. W. shoulder, striking the Waterville trail near the summit.

Scar Ridge. A high sharp ridge running from Osceola to the N. W. From the third peak East Pond may be seen and readily reached.

Snow's Mountain. 2900 ft. 2 M. Wooded summit southeast of Hotel. An old path to summit can be followed from Snow's Mt. Outlook. No view.

Sandwich Mt., Noon Peak, Jennings Peak

Tecumseh. N. 66° W. from Hotel. 4008 ft.

Hotel to Osceola Bridge, 4-5 M.; to spring, 2; to summit, 3 1-16. See note and 2 under Osceola.

This path is same as the Osceola path till Osceola Bridge is passed. Here we turn to left up the ridge. The climbing begins at once. The grade is quite heavy and increases steadily, the last mile being the hardest. The spring is a poor one.

Tripyramids, The.

1. The North Tripyramid. 4189 ft.

Hotel to Beckytown, 1 2-3 M.; to camp, 2 1-4; to foot of North Slide, 3 3-4; to summit, 4 1-4; Middle Peak, 5; South Peak, 5 1-2.

2. South Tripyramid. 4139 ft.

Hotel to camp, 2 1-6; to "V", 4; to foot of South Slide, 4 1-2; to summit, 5.

3. The Middle Tripyramid, 4155 ft.,

is about 1-2 M. from the South, and 2-3 M. from the North Tripyramid.

The route to the Tripyramids follows either the A. M. C. path or the logging road nearly to the camp on Avalanche brook. Just before the camp is reached a road comes in on the right—follow this. Shortly after the brook is crossed the road forks again. Take the left fork for the North Tripyramid, follow it as far as you can and then take to the brook. For the South Tripyramid, take the right fork, follow it till it ends—which is at the head of the V—and then take to the

brook. Ascend the North Slide on the gravel at the side; the middle is dangerous. The South Slide is safe anywhere. A path has been cleared from the top of the South Slide to the South peak, leaving the Slide at the head of the western bay; also from the western bay of the North Slide to the North Peak. At present (1916) there is merely a rough trail over the peaks and considerable scrub exists. The summits are wooded, but outlooks have been cut. The trip is one of the hardest in the valley.

The "V" is a place in the track of the South Slide where Slide Brook has cut through the ledge in such a way that a cross-section of its excavation gives a V. It is not an easy place to pass.

The Black Cascade is about 1-2 M. below the "V." The stream here flows over a ledge of black gabbro.

Cold Brook enters on the righ bank near the Black Cascade. It comes from the South Tripyramid and, when not flooded, flows for a considerable distance underground.

The South Slide came down on October 4, 1869, and was largely increased at the time the North Slide occurred, August 13, 1885. The South Slide is on the S. W. face of the South Tripyramid; the North Slide, on the north face of the North Tripyramid.

Welch Mountain. 7 1-2 M. The picturesque pile of granite which stands on the left at the

entrance of the Valley, opposite Bald Knob. It is the southernmost peak of the Tecumseh range. The path leaves the road at the top of the six-mile hill on the old road, and leads across the pasture and through a maple orchard. It is not well marked.

Whiteface. 4057 ft.

1. Woodbury Trail.

Hotel to Cascade 1 1-2 M.; to junction with Air Line, (See 2), 3; to Flat Mt. Ponds path, 4 1-6; to Bunker Hill Spring, 5 2-3; to Passaconway cut-off and the Sleeper trail, 6 1-2; Whiteface, 7 1-6.

2. Air Line Trail.

Hotel to Ledges p., 3-5 M.; to Snow's Mt. Outlook p., 1; to spring, 1 5-8; to junc. Woodbury trail, 2 1-8; to Flat Mt. Ponds p., 3 1-2; to Bunker Hill spring, 5; to Passaconway cut-off and Sleeper trail, 5 4-5; Whiteface, 6 1-2; to Wonalancet, 11 1-2; Whiteface to Passaconway, 2 1-2.

The Woodbury trail to Whiteface, named for its principal constructor, Dr. W. R. Woodbury, was put through in 1902. It continues the Cascade path up the right bank of Cascade brook, finally crossing and ascending the flank of the high ridge connecting Whiteface and Tripyramid. The trail is rough and ascends steadily, but has few steep pulls and is easily followed except where the lumbering has crossed it. There are two log huts on Whiteface, without blankets. The spring is close to the top on its southern side. From the summit trails lead to Mt. Passaconway and to Wonalancet. The "Cut-off" path is at present (1916) lost in the lumbering. There is an A. M.

C. open camp on Passaconway at the base of the cone near the loop path. Distance from Hotel 8 M.

The Air Line Trail was put through in 1907 by Mr. C. W. Blood and Mr. P. R. Jenks. It crosses the saddle between the Ledges and Snow's Mt. and then follows a contour line on the east side of the mountain till it reaches Cascade brook and the Woodbury trail by which it then proceeds.

The old Sleeper trail running from Tripyramids to Whiteface, named for the proprietor of Wonalancet Farm, starts about half way up the E. side of the South slide on Tripyramid, and follows the crest of the ridge toward Whiteface. It joins the Woodbury trail just before the final pull up the peak is begun. Distance about 3 1-2 M.

2. OTHER OBJECTS

Algonquin Trail. See Sandwich Mt.

A. M. C. Path (Appalachian Mountain Club). See Livermore Trail.

Beckytown. 1 2-3 M. See historical sketch. Follow any of the paths to the Cascades. A few rods beyond the point where the Swaseytown and Outlook paths to the Cascades unite, the Beckytown path turns to the left (1 1-6 M., by Outlook). The path crosses Cascade Brook at once and runs 1-2 M. through the woods to Beckytown. About two-thirds of the way through, the Norway Rapids path turns to the left.

Big Bowlder, The. 7-8 M.

It is situated on the right bank of Slide Brook a few rods above its junction with Mad River. It can be reached either by the Undercut path or by the Greeley Ponds path and the big Bowlder Bridge. See the directions for reaching the Cascades, or Swaseytown.

Big Bowlder Bridge. 4-5 M.

Carries the Slide Brook logging road over Mad River just above the junction of those streams.

Black Cascade, The. 3 1-2 M.

So called from the color of the gabbro ledge over which the water pours. See South Tripyramid.

Bluff, The. 1-3 M.

A few rods beyond the Steps on the left bank of Mad River. Take the Swaseytown path and turn to left just after you enter the woods.

***Bowlder Brook.**

The tributary of Drake's Brook on which Fletcher's Cascade is situated. Named from collection of bowlders at its mouth.

Bull Hill. Down the road 1-2 M. Pavilion.

Cascades, The. †2000 ft.

1. Over the hill, Outlook Path.

Hotel to Outlook, 3-4 M.; to Spring, 1; to Cascades, 1 1-2.

The Swaseytown path (see 2) enters on left at foot of hill beyond the spring. The Beckytown path leaves on the left a few rods further on.

2. Via Swaseytown.

Hotel to Dam, 1 M; to Swaseytown, 1 1-4; to Cascades, 2.

The path by Undercut and Big Bowlder (see 3) enters this path at the Dam. (Fine view of Tripyramids.) The path over the hill (see 1) is joined about 1-3 M. beyond Swaseytown.

3. Via Undercut Path and Big Bowlder.

Hotel to Steps, 1-5 M.; to Big Bowlder, 7-8; to Dam, 1 1-4; to Swaseytown, 1 1-2; to Cascades, 2 1-4. The Scaur path turns to the left over Kettles Bridge just above the Bowlder.

4. Via Big Bowlder Bridge. 2 1-2 M.

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*Only a few brooks will be included in this list. For others see map.

†Not the height of the falls!

At the Cascades

Follow Greeley Ponds path for about 4-5 M. Turn to the right up the logging road, cross the bridge, and in a few rods turn to the right again, crossing Slide Brook by the Kettles Bridge just above the Bowlder. Then turn to the left and continue by the Undercut path (3).

The Cascades are 7 or 8 in number, of which the third and first are the finest. For the best views cross the brook at the foot of the first fall and go up on the right bank. Then recross at the head of the fourth fall and return by the left bank. The Cave is on the right bank beside the second fall.

Cave, The. See Cascades.

Cold Brook. See South Tripyramid.

Crossings of West Branch. See Osceola.

Davis Park. 2 1-8 M. Path turns to left from Greeley Ponds path a short distance beyond Scaur bridge. Named for Mr. J. W. Davis, who built the first path. It is a collection of large bowlders in a park-like stretch of hardwood forest, lying on the slope of Osceola about opposite the Scaur. Goodrich Rock, the largest bowlder in the Valley, lies a short distance farther on.

East Pond. 7 M. Lies high up under the third peak of the Scar ridge. The old trail, which left the North Woodstock path at the height of land in Thornton Gap, is utterly lost.

Elephant Rock, 1-2 M. On the hill path to Cascades. It is 2 or 3 rods off the path to the right. Path to Ledges runs by it.

Flat Mt. Ponds. 6 M. In valley southeast of Flat Mt.

Follow Air Line Whiteface trail, to point of separation, 3 1-2 M. From trail to Ponds, 2 1-2 M. Ponds to Whiteface Intervale, 4 M. Trail opened in 1906.

Fletcher's Cascade.

Hotel, by road, to path, 1 1-3 M.; to foot of Cascade, 3 1-4; to summit, 3 1-2.

Go by road nearly to Drake's mill. Turn from the road to left at signboard, cross the open plateau lying between Drake's brook and the road (fine view of Osceola) and take the logging road leading up the brook. Follow this to the clearing at Josselyn's mill, and beyond, till the road crosses Bowlder Brook. The path turns to the left beyond the brook and strikes the cascades some distance above its foot. The old path is wiped out by logging and beyond the clearing the logging road is badly overgrown. The Cascades are ordinarily a mere trickle, but after a hard storm they are visible from the Hotel, a silver thread on the flank of Flat Mt. At such times there are no finer cascades in New Hampshire. They were named for Mr. Arthur Fletcher, of Concord, N. H.

Flume, The. 2500 ft.

Hotel to Greeley Ponds Bridge, 2 1-12 M.; to crossing, 2 4-5; to Flume, 3 1-5; to A. M. C. path, 3 5-8.

This path follows the Greeley Ponds Path to Flume Brook and then keeps up the left bank of Flume Brook for about 3-4 mile, after which it crosses to the right bank for the rest of the distance. The grade is pretty heavy, especially after the brook is crossed. The path enters the Flume at the lower right hand corner looking down stream. A well marked path runs from a point on the left bank at the head of the Flume across the woods to the A. M. C. path, 3-8 M., by which a return can be made via Beckytown. A path also leaves the Flume at the lower left hand corner, rises to the crest of the ridge and continues along the ridge to the Scaur. 1 M.

Goodrich Rock. 2 2-5 M.. The largest bowlder in the valley, measuring roughly, 60x50x50 ft. It lies beyond and above Davis Park on the slope of Osceola. For the path see Davis Park. From the top of the rock a fine view down the valley may be had. The loggers have destroyed the forest to the west but have made the rock easy to reach by their roads. To get at it in this way leave the main logging road at the Supply Camp, 2 2-5 M.

Greeley Ponds. 2252 ft.

Hotel to Steps, 1-5 M.; to Scaur Bridge, 1 1-2; to The Knight's Bridge, 2; to Greeley Ponds Bridge, 2 1-12; to lower Pond, 3 3-5; to upper Pond, 4.

This path crosses Mad River at the Steps and turning to the right, avoiding the Osceola path, continues up the right bank of the river. It reaches the Slide brook logging road at the point where the Greeley Ponds logging road enters—quite near Bowlder bridge. Until recently it ran from Bowlder bridge close along the bank of the river nearly to Scaur bridge before taking to the logging road. This beautiful section has now (1916) been destroyed and the path takes to the Greeley Ponds logging road at its beginning and follows it nearly to the lower Pond. It then turns to the left into the woods for the remaining distance. The river is crossed at the Knight's Bridge, and Flume brook at the Greeley Ponds Bridge. Path to the Flume turns to right just before Greeley Ponds Bridge is reached.

The Ponds were named for the former proprietor of the Hotel, Mr. Nathaniel Greeley. Beyond the Ponds the path continues through the Notch till it intersects the trail from Swift river to Lincoln.

Greeley Ponds Bridge. 2 1-12 M. On Flume Brook where the Greeley Ponds Path crosses.

Josselyn's Mill. 1 7-8 M.
Site of old mill on Drake's brook. Go by path to Fletcher's Cascade.

Judge's Spring.
See the Scaur. Named for Judge John W. Bacon, of Natick, Mass.

Kancamagus Flume and Cliffs, I and II. 3 1-4, 4 M. Overhanging cliffs and strange cleft in the rock on the west flank of Kancamagus. Trails leave Greeley Ponds path about 2 3-4 and 3 1-2 M. up.

Kettles, The Three. 1 2-5 M.

The kettle shaped depressions (probably caused by the melting of glacial ice) on the path to the Scaur via Big Bowlder.

Livermore Trail or A. M. C. Path. Highest point, 2822 ft.

Hotel to Avalanche camp, 2 1-4 M.; to Mt. Washington Outlook, 4 5-8; to site of Camp 6, 7 1-4; to Livermore Mills, 13 1-4; to R. R. in Saco Valley, 15.

Take any of the paths to Beckytown. Cross Slide Brook at Beckytown and when logging road is reached follow it to the camp. Here the trail turns into the woods to the left, ascends the long slope onto the high table land between Tripyramid and Kancamagus, and crosses this in a N. E. direction. The path then descends into the basin formed by the head waters of Swift River till the old railroad (site of Camp 6) is reached, and follows the abandoned railroad to Sawyer's river, and then the present tracks down the river to Livermore Mills. The path to the Flume leaves on the left just at the top of the long hill beyond Avalanche camp. Cut-off to Swift river path leaves on the right at 5 1-2 M.

Ledges, The. 2137 ft. 7-8 M. The summit of the hill E. of the Hotel. Trail leaves Cascade path (1) near 1-2 M. mark. Return path runs down from Ledges to "Air-Line" trail to Whiteface.

Lookout, The. First.

Lookout, The. Second.

On the Osceola path. First Lookout gives fine view of Tripyramids; second Lookout gives fine view of the valley.

Mad River Notch. 2303 ft.

This is the pass between Osceola and Kancamagus. The Greeley Ponds are in this notch. The old path to the Saco by Sawyer's river ran here. It kept on by the ponds and then, turning somewhat to the N. E., ran along the slope around the head waters of Hancock Branch till it reached a gap by means of which it crossed into the valley of Sawyer's River and followed it down. A much better route than the present A. M. C. path.

Meadows, The. Upper and Lower.

The Upper Meadow is an intervale on Mad River directly west of Hotel, 1-3 M. The Lower Meadow (1-2 M.) is a smaller intervale farther down river. It is usually reached by the path in the woods back of the old bowling alley, but can also be reached by a cart path 8 or 10 rods further south.

North Woodstock Path. Highest point, 2332 ft.

Hotel to second camp, 1 2-3 M.; to height of land, 3 3-4; to old loggng railroad, 4 1-2; to point of leaving railroad, 9; to valley road near Mt. Park hotel, 10 1-2; to North Woodstock, 14.

This path is the Osceola path to the second camp. From this point it continues by the West Branch logging road nearly to the height of land. It then becomes an obscure trail over the height of land and down to an abandoned logging railroad. This may be followed down to Woodstock, if desired. The shorter route to North Woodstock, however follows this road for about 4 1-2 M., and then abandons it for a N. W. cross country cut-off of about 1 1-2 M. to the valley road near the Mountain Park hotel. Then 3 1-2 M. by road to North Woodstock.

Norway Rapids.

1. Direct, 1 3-4 M.

Go over the hill by the Cascade path and follow the Beckytown path for about 1-3 M. from Cascade Brook, then turn to the left.

2. Via Big Bowlder, 2 1-2 M.

Take Undercut path to Big Bowlder. Cross by Kettles bridge to logging road. Then see 3.

3. Via Logging Road.

Follow the logging road leading to the Camp on Avalanche brook for about 2 1-2 M. Sign board. 10 rods through woods by path.

These rapids are on Slide Brook between Swaseytown and Beckytown.

Osceola Bridge. 4-5 M.

Over the West Branch on Osceola path. Now (1916) destroyed by the lumbering.

Osceola Rapids. On Osceola brook. Follow Ravine path.

Outlook, The. 3-4 M.

On hill path to Cascades. View of Mad River Notch.

Painted Cliffs. 3 1-2 M. The high cliffs on the East Peak of Osceola which are especially noticeable from the Scaur. No path.

Ravine of Avalanches.

The head of Avalanche Brook. Part of the North Slide.

Ravine Path.

A rough trail up Osceola by way of the ravine of Osceola Brook, used mainly for returning. It leaves the main trail at the first camp and follows the Osceola brook logging road to its end. Thence the trail follows the left bank of the brook, ascends the head wall of the ravine to the meadow, and follows the crest of the ridge to the top (4 3-4 M.).

Scaur, The. 2200 ft.

1. Via Scaur Bridge.

Hotel to Scaur Bridge, 1 1-2 M.; to Judge's Spring, 1 2-3; to Summit, 2 1-4.

This path follows the Greeley Ponds path to Scaur Bridge. It rises from the brook by two steep terraces and a final sharp climb to the ledge. The Judge's Spring is on the left of the path near

the foot of the first terrace. The Kettles path (see 2) enters at the foot of the final climb. Path to Flume leaves from near the top of the final climb.

2. Via Kettles.

Hotel to Big Bowlder, 7-8 M.; to Kettles, 1 2-5; to summit, 2 1-4.

This path leaves the Undercut path at the Kettles Bridge just above the Bowlder and joins the Scaur Bridge path (see 1) at the foot of the final climb to the ledge, avoiding the second terrace entirely, and taking the first terrace gradually at the Kettles. There is a spring on the right a few rods before the two paths join.

The Scaur is a very precipitous ledge on the slope of the hill between Mad River and Slide Brook.

Scaur Bridge. 1 1-2 M.
Over Mad River. See the Scaur.

Shell Cascades.

Hotel, by road, to brook, 3 3-4 M.; to Cascades, 4 1-4.

These Cascades are on Hardy's Brook which comes out of the ravine west of the great ridge of Tecumseh. No path (1916).

Slides, The. North and South.
See Tripyramids.

Snow's Mt. Outlook.

Located on ridge leading from north to summit. Follow Whiteface (Air Line) trail to 1 M. mark.

Path leaves to right up the hill (1-3 M.). Fine view down Mad River valley.

Split Cliff, The.
A ledge on the north side of Osceola. See Osceola.

Steps, The. 1-5 M.
They make the descent of the bluff to the bed of Mad River at the point where most of the paths, going north, cross.

Swaseytown. See Historical Sketch.

1. Direct, 1 1-4 M.

Go north from the Hotel to the Steps and then to the right, keeping up the hill into the woods and avoiding the Bluff by keeping straight on.

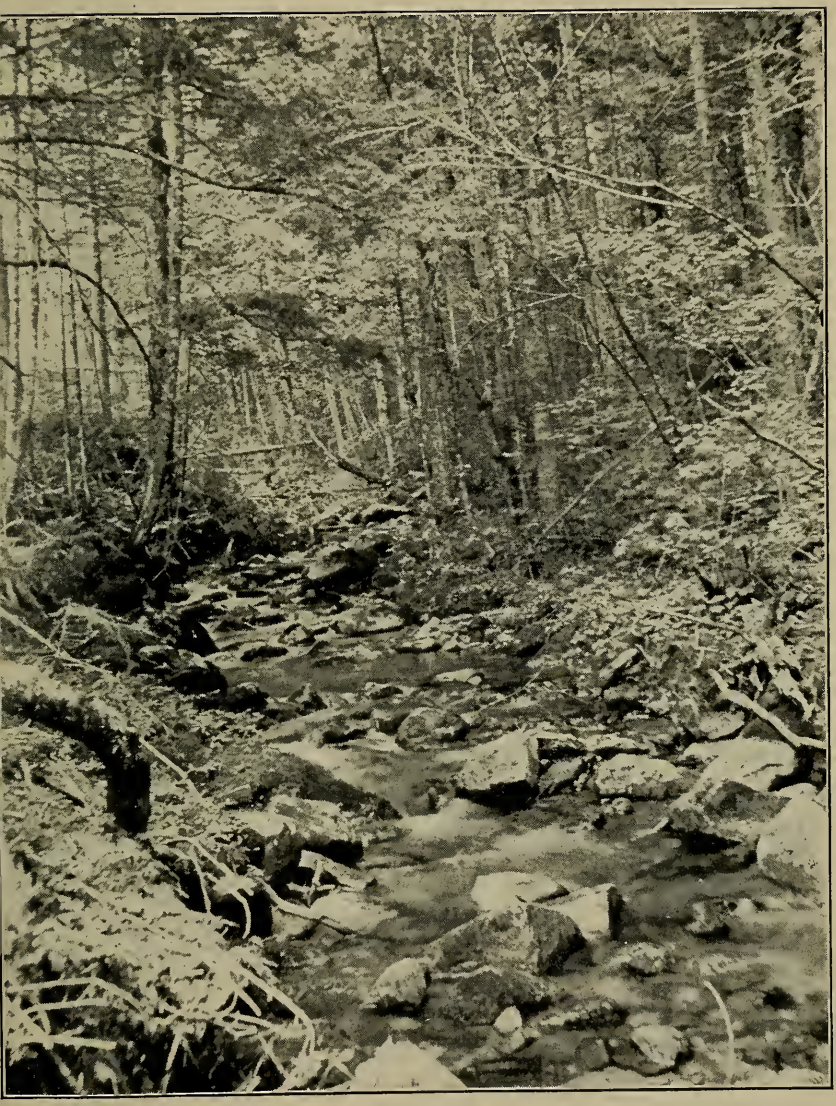
2. Via Big Bowlder, 1 1-2 M.

Either (1) go by Undercut path up the left bank of Mad River to Kettles Bridge; or (2) cross Mad River at Steps, and follow the Greeley Ponds path to the Big Bowlder Bridge, cross the bridge, and in a few rods turn to the right and cross the Kettles Bridge.

These paths unite at Kettles Bridge and follow up the left bank of Slide Brook. They join the direct path at the dam near Swaseytown. The mouth of Slide Brook is a few rods below the Big Bowlder Bridge, and the Big Bowlder is a little distance up Slide Brook. Kettles Bridge, just above the Bowlder, marks the departure of the path to the Scaur, via Kettles.

Tecumseh Ledges are situated at the southern end and close to the summit of the great ridge of Tecumseh. No path (1916).

Terrace, The. A walk of about 1 M. along the terrace on the left bank of Mad River from the Bluff to Tyler's Spring.



On Tecumseh Brook

The Knight's Bridge.

Crosses Mad River about 2 M. above the Steps. Named for Sir Daniel Wilson, Toronto, P. O.

Thornton Gap. 2332 ft., is the pass between Osceola and Tecumseh. Through it passes the North Woodstock trail.

Triangle, The. Round trip, 1 3-4 M.

The Osceola and Greeley Ponds path make the sides and a cross-path the base. Go by Osceola path nearly to Osceola Bridge and then turn to right. Wrecked by the lumbering (1916).

Trough, The. 2 1-2 M. down the road. A picturesque watering trough with quaint inscription.

Tyler's Spring. 3-5 M. Named for Deacon J. C. Tyler, of Boston, Mass.

Go to the lower end of the Lower Meadow and take the path that keeps close to the river. Just at the top of the rise beyond the spring the path forks. Path to right leads to Drake's Mill. Path to left splits into three very shortly. Fork to left loops back to Lower Meadow. Middle fork runs out to golf links. Right fork leads to Snow's brook and up its right bank for some distance. It then branches; one path turns sharply back to the left and comes out on the golf links back of the School house, the other crosses the brook and keeps up its left bank to the road.

Undercut Path.

Runs from Steps bridge, on left bank of Mad River and Slide brook, to Big Bowlder and Swaseytown.

V, The. See South Tripyramid.

Peace waits among the hills;
I have drunk peace;
Here, where the blue air fills
The great cup of the hills,
And fills with peace.

—*Symons*

3. WALKS AND TRIPS

Distances in miles

Short Walks

Big Bowlder, 7-8
Bluff, 1-3
Bull Hill, 1-2
Josselyn's Mill, 1 7-8
Ledges, The, 7-8
Outlook (Csc. p.), 3-4
Swaseytown Dam, 1
Terrace Walk, 1
Tyler's Spring, 3-5
Tyler's Spring and Drake's Mill, 1 2-5
Tyler's Spring and Snow's Brook, 1 1-5

Longer Walks

Beckytown, 2 1-3
Cascades, direct, 1 1-2
—by S-town, 2
Davis Park, 2 1-8
Fletcher's Cascade, 3 1-4
Goodrich Rock, 2 2-5
Lookout, 1st., 1 1-2
Norway Rapids, 1 3-4
Scaur, 2 1-4
Snow's Mt. Outlook, 1 1-3

All Day Trips

Acteon Range, 12 1-4
Flat Mt. Ponds, 6
Flume, 3 1-5
Greeley Ponds, 3 3-5, 4
Jennings Peak, 4 1-4
Sandwich Mt. 5 1-4
Slide—North, 3 3-4
—South, 4 1-2
Snow's Mt., 2
Tecumseh, 3 1-16
Kancamagus Cliffs, 3 1-4, 4
Livermore Trail; Saco Valley, 15
Noon Peak, 3 1-4
North Woodstock, 14
Osceola, 4 3-16
Painted Cliff, 3 3-4
Passaconway, 8
Tecumseh Ledges, 1 3-4
Tripyramids
—North, 4 1-4
—South, 5
V, The, 4
Welch Mt., 7 1-2
Whiteface, 6 1-2

4. ALTITUDES

These altitudes are taken mainly from the data of the A. M. C. and the U. S. Coast Survey. A few of the lower levels were obtained from the U. S. Geological Survey.

Beckytown	1900 ft.
Camps—Avalanche	2022 "
—Flume	1772 "
—Supply	1600 "
—Swaseytown	1650 "
—West Branch, 2nd.	1852 "
Cascades	2000 "
Flat Mt.	2900 "
The Flume	2500 "
Flume Peak	2900 "
Greeley Ponds (Upper)	2252 "
Hotel, The	1553 "
Jennings Peak	3500 "
Kancamaugus	3774 "
Ledges, The	2137 "
Livermore Trail, highest point	2822 "
Mad River Notch	2303 "
Noon Peak	2900 "
Osceola—Main Peak	4352 "
—East Peak	4204 "
Passaconway	4116 "
Sandwich Mt.	3999 "
Scaur	2200 "
Snow's Mt.	2900 "
Swaseytown	1660 "
Tecumseh	4008 "
Thornton Gap	2332 "
Tripyramids—North	4189 "
—Middle	4155 "
—South	4139 "
Whiteface	4057 "

PD 181

MAP OF
WATERVILLE VALLEY
NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY A.L.GOODRICH
1915
JUL 13 1916
Scale of Miles
71°30'
44°
Mt Kancamagus 3774
East Pk. 4200+
Spring
Greeley's Ponds
K2 Cliff
K1 Cliff
Mt Osceola 4352 (4307)
Camp
Cabin Spring
Cliff
Greeley Brook
Mad River
Osceola Brook
Lookout
To No Woodstock
2332
Rapids
Spring
Goodrich Rock
Davis Park
North Branch
Flume Pk 2900+
Flume Brook
Flume 2500
Cave
Outlook
The Knight's Bridge
The Scour 2200+
Judge's Spring
Scour Bridge
Spring
West Branch
Camp 1852
Lookout
Kettles
Mad River
A.M.C. Path Livermore Trail
Avalanche Brook
No. Slide
No Tripyramid 4189 (4121)
Camp 2022
Norway Rapids
Slide Brook
Beckytown
Camp
Dam
Osceola Bridge
Boulder Bridge
Boulder 1600
Dam
Swaseytown
Kettles Bridge
Outlook
Spring
Elephant Rock
Mt Tecumseh 4008 (3911)
Spring
Tecumseh Brook
Bluff
Steps
The Ledges 2137
The Cascades 2000
Cascade Brook
Cold Brook
Mid. Tripyramid 4153
Black Cascade
So. Tripyramid 4139
So. Slide
To Whiteface
Whiteface Trail
Hotel Cottages 1553
Outlook
Spring
To Whiteface
Bull Hill
Snow's Mt. 2900+
Ledges
Tyler's Spring
Snows Brook
Camp
Drake's
Mill
Jossolyn's Mills
Drunes Brook
Shell Cascade
Trough
Dry Brook
Mad River
To Compton
Fletcher's Cascade
Noon Pk 2900+
Flat Mt. 2800+
Spring
Jenning's Pk 3500+
Sandwich Mt. 3993
Spring
Camp
To Sandwich Notch
To Sandwich
Flat Mt. Ponds
McCrills
Bennet St.

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